

《人行道上的礼仪：你是“让路党”吗？》



Two people are walking towards each other along a narrow pavement – who gives way?

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If it is you, you fall into the 25 percent of people who prefer to step aside.

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Another 25 percent like to pass first, making the other person stand to one side.

??25%????????????

The remaining 50 percent make up the third type of pedestrian and vary their strategy.

??50%????????????

The findings come from study in which researchers from the Technical University of Munich paired up 20 strangers and asked them to walk towards each other without colliding and without speaking.

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The volunteers also filled in personality questionnaires and were measured and weighed.

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Interestingly, physical factors such as age, height and gender seemed to have no bearing on pavement etiquette.

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Nor did traits such as extraversion or shyness, the Journal of Experimental Psychology reports.

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In other words, some of us seem to be simply born to barge past.

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A second experiment revealed that the person who passes first isn't as rude as they may initially appear.

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It seems they do tend to adjust their path – just not enough to avoid a collision.

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As a result, it is only when the second person moves out of the way that the problem is solved.

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Etiquette expert William Hanson said that the custom of men walking on the outside of the pavement to protect women from traffic, splashes and other dangers has fallen by the wayside.

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Mr Hanson said: 'Traditionally, men let the woman they were accompanying walk closest to the building, away from the pavement edge.

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How to avoid that awkward 'pavement dance'

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The German study doesn't address what to do in the common but embarrassing situation, in which both pedestrians repeatedly dodge out of each other's way in the same direction, giving the impression of dancing together on the pavement.

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But Mr Hanson said: 'I tend to pick a side of the pavement, stick to it, and politely gesture to the empty space for the stranger to use.'

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THREE TYPES OF PEDESTRIAN

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Bumbler - Most people fall into this category. Scientists found 50 percent can't make up their mind, and vary their strategy when walking in crowds.

?????—????????????????????50%????????????????????

Barger - Around 25 percent of people like to pass first, making the other person stand to one side. The person who passes first isn't as rude as they may initially appear.

?????— 25%??

It seems they do tend to adjust their path – just not enough to avoid a collision.

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Polite- Another 25 percent prefer to step aside. Interestingly, physical factors such as age, height and gender seemed to have no bearing on pavement etiquette.

???——??25%??

